

# Water, Water Everywhere...

How we can use water as natural tracer by exploiting subtle differences in its isotopic composition

W. Meier-Augenstein<sup>1</sup>, H.F. Kemp<sup>1</sup>, R. Bol<sup>2</sup> and S. Granger<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> SCRI, Stable Isotope Laboratory, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5DA.

<sup>2</sup> Biogeochemistry of Soils and Water Group, North Wyke Research, Okehampton, EX20 2SB.

## Example 1

### Increase our understanding of the influence of land use and soil composition on water balance.

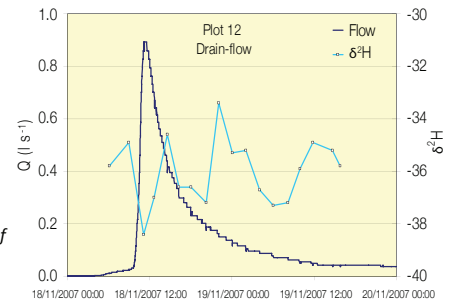
#### Conclusions

1. Rainwater is believed to move rapidly from clay soils, yet the data presented here suggest that this is not the case.
2. Some yet to be understood interaction between clay soil and water results in a more positive isotope shift for drain-flow water as compared to surface runoff.
3. Slurry application mitigates for this effect in surface run-off.
4. No significant variation in  $\delta^2\text{H}$ -values of drainage water occurred over time.

Mean  $\delta^2\text{H}$  values of surface run-off and drainage water from heavy clay soil measured during a rainfall event.

	Drain-flow	Surface runoff	Rainfall
Plot 12 (Untreated)	-36.0 (n=18)	-42.5 (n=3)	-68.3
Plot 5 (Slurry applied)	-36.6 (n=16)	-55.1 (n=1)	

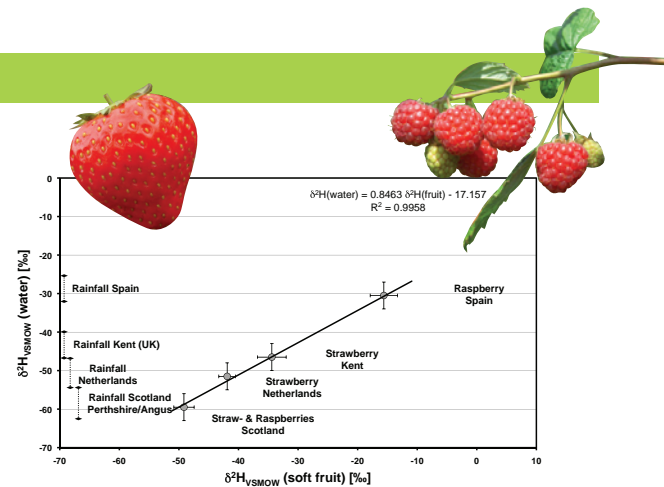
Temporal variation of  $\delta^2\text{H}$ -values plotted against drain flow.



## Example 2

### The stable isotope signal of a few micro-litres of freshly pressed and filtered juice from soft fruit contains information that will benefit Scotland plc in several ways.

1. Environmental assessment, monitoring and management: development and implementation of indicators of water use. Do crops preferentially use recent rainwater (immediate subsurface water) or water from the unsaturated zone that is 1 to 2 years old?
2. Climate change monitoring based on the causal link between temperature and stable isotope signal of water (precipitation).
3. On the spot authentication of Scottish premium produce as "grown in Scotland" as opposed to packaged or finished in Scotland.



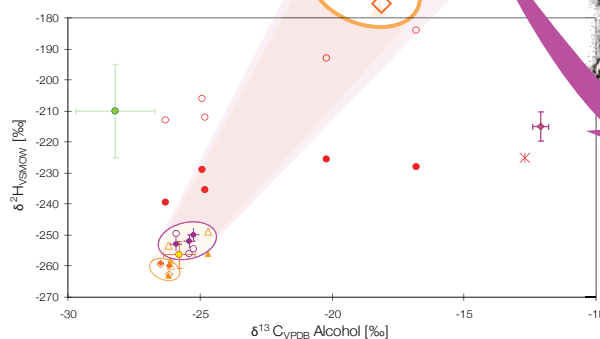
## Example 3

### Authenticate premium Scottish produce / brands to protect producers, consumers and Scottish jobs.

#### Conclusions

1. Bivariate isotope plots of key components are a powerful tool for QC/QA of premium Scottish produce.
2. They can be used for authentication of Scottish brands.
3. They can detect counterfeit products.

- ✗ Bourbon
- △ Amyl alcohol - Highland - Single Malts mean
- Amyl alcohol - Islay
- Islay
- Amyl alcohol - Blended - Blended
- Amyl alcohol - Speyside - Speyside
- Rum mean



Bivariate stable isotope profiles of alcohol and congeners of premium brand spirits determine provenance and, hence authenticity.



The Scottish Government

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